

# **Nursing Council (Code of Practice) Regulations 2019**

**GN No. 99 of 2019**

**Government Gazette of Mauritius No. 58 of 8 June 2019**

## **NURSING COUNCIL ACT**

### **Regulations made by the Nursing Council of Mauritius, with the approval of the Minister, under section 40 of the Nursing Council Act**

1. These regulations may be cited as the **Nursing Council (Code of Practice) Regulations 2019**.

2. In these regulations —

“Act” means the Nursing Council Act.

3. For the purpose of section 12(f) of the Act, the Code of Practice for the nursing and midwifery profession shall be the Code set out in the Schedule.

4. Every registered person shall comply with the Code of Practice.

5. (1) Where a registered person fails to comply with Part II of the Code of Practice, the Council, may, by notice in writing served on him, require him to comply with that Part.

(2) A registered person who fails to comply with Part II of the Code of Practice after a notice has been issued under paragraph (1) shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings under the Act.

6. The Code of Practice established under the repealed Nursing Council Act 1992 shall be revoked.

7. These regulations shall come into operation on 1 July 2019.

Made by the Nursing Council on 20 March 2018 and approved by the Minister on 27 May 2019.

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**SCHEDULE**

[Regulation 3]

**PART I**

1. It is the duty of every registered person to —
- (a) devote himself to the service of suffering humanity in the field of nursing and midwifery;
  - (b) practise his profession with conscience, dignity and integrity;
  - (c) maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the moment of conception till death;
  - (d) offer his knowledge, skill and time to any person in need of nursing attention without any distinction or discrimination;
  - (e) uphold and maintain the dignity and honour of the nursing and midwifery profession;
  - (f) encourage and restore confidence in a patient;
  - (g) avoid any action which might disturb the confidence of a patient in a registered person or in the nursing and midwifery profession;
  - (h) share his knowledge and discoveries amongst other registered persons;
  - (i) maintain a high standard of professionalism, uphold the honour of the profession and avoid engaging into any conduct or activity which might lower the profession in the esteem of the public;

- (j) continue his professional education for the duration of his practising life in the best interests of patients;
- (k) maintain his professional skills so as to provide treatment of the highest standard possible;
- (l) uphold the principals of equity and fairness towards all patients;
- (m) maintain professional relationship with the patient and cooperate with others in the team;
- (n) conduct himself in such a manner so as to maintain, and build public trust and confidence that upholds, the reputation of the profession;
- (o) be faithful to the responsibilities he undertakes;
- (p) promote and preserve the trust that is inherent in the privilege relationship between him and a patient;
- (q) act in the best interests of a patient.

**2.** The professional relationship between a registered person and the patient depends on trust.

**3.** A patient deserves respect in all facets of his personality, that is, physical, psychological, spiritual, financial or social and a registered person shall aim at rehabilitating a patient to his full state of humanhood.

**4.** Taking into consideration that a patient is often embarrassed, ashamed or fearful, a registered person has a duty to —

(a) show humility, kindness and understanding towards a patient;

(b) do his best to relieve a patient of hidden fears and apprehensions.

## **PART II**

5. A registered nurse shall report to the appropriate authorities any sign of violence or assault upon a patient.
6. A registered person shall not delegate to a person other than a registered nurse, any service or operation which requires the full competence of a registered nurse.
7. A registered nurse shall not expose his patient whether by investigation or treatment to unnecessary risks.
8. A registered nurse shall not supply drugs of addiction or dependence otherwise than in the course of bona fide treatment.
9. A registered nurse shall not disclose any information imparted to him by a patient in relation to his treatment except —
  - (a) with the consent of the patient;
  - (b) in case the patient is a minor, with the consent of his next of kin or legal guardian;
  - (c) in case the patient dies, with the consent of his next of kin or legal guardian; or
  - (d) where compelled by a Court of law or by a body authorised by law.
10. A registered person shall not perform his duties if he is in a state of intoxication due to alcohol or drug abuse.
11. A registered person shall take all appropriate precautions possible to protect the patient and the nursing staff from the risk of cross infection.
12. A registered person shall behave towards his colleagues in a manner consistent with his professional calling.

- 13.** A registered person shall not refer disparagingly to the services or opinion of a colleague in the presence of a patient or in public generally.
- 14.** Any conflict arising in the exercise of their calling between 2 or more registered persons shall be professionally dealt with among themselves.
- 15.** Registered persons shall assist each other professionally.
- 16.** A registered person has an obligation to practise in a safe and competent manner according to nursing protocol.
- 17.** A registered person shall report to the appropriate authority, for remedial action, of any situation that could jeopardise the standard of practice.
- 18.** A registered person has a duty to maintain competence by updating his knowledge, skills and abilities in the theory and practice of nursing and midwifery.
- 19.** A registered person shall limit himself to his professional competence.
- 20.** (1) A registered person may be aware that undertakings which are not within his scope of practice may compromise the safety of a patient:  
  
(2) In situation where the registered person feels any doubt on his competence, he shall seek guidance from a registered person or a registered medical practitioner.
- 21.** A registered person shall be ready to share his knowledge, skill and experience to his colleagues or paramedical staff and be involved in clinical teaching of junior nurses, nursing and medical students.
- 22.** A registered person shall strive to provide the highest possible quality of care in any given situation, without any distinction or discrimination.
- 23.** (1) A registered person shall have respect for the patient's individual needs, values, culture and belief.

(2) The patient's right for information and informed consent or refusal for any treatment shall be maintained.

**24.** In making professional judgment in relation to the patient's interest and right, a registered person shall practise in accordance with laws relevant to the registered person's area of practice and in no circumstances, he shall contravene any law or breach the patient's human rights.

**25.** A registered person shall hold in confidence any information, about a patient, that he obtains in the exercise of his function and ensure that such information is not disclosed without the patient's or the treating health institution's consent unless it is for professional and legal purposes.

**26.** In the absence of consent, a registered person shall use professional judgment regarding the necessity to disclose particular details, giving due consideration to the interest, well-being, health and, safety of the patient.

**27.** A registered person shall ensure that the patient has access to health services responsive to his needs within the resources available.

**28.** A registered person shall not use his profession or status for promoting and marketing commercial products and services.

**29.** A registered person shall safeguard the belongings of a patient.

**30.** A registered person shall always wear the appropriate uniform and display conspicuously the applicable title and name to identify him in any healthcare setting.

**31.** A registered person shall keep appropriate documentation in the exercise of his function and ensure that such records are factually accurate.

**32.** A registered person shall be personally and professionally responsible and accountable for any action or omission in the performance of his duties.